in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, article 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In the discharge of this duty, the Central Government is expected to keep itself posted with respect to going-on in all States. Visits of Central officials to the States are part of this process. The Central and State Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

Cognizable Crimes

2355. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the detailed figures for cognizable crimes like murders, decoity, atrocities on women like rape, attacks on SCs and STs etc. with item-wise and State-wise break-up for the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Information is readily available up to the month of April'98 only. According to it, the position in regard to cognizable crimes in various State/Union Territories during February, March and April'98 was as indicated in the enclosed 'Annexure. *[see* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 69.1

Stone Carving for Ayodhya Temple

2356. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C. O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report that stone carving work is in progress in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) in undisputed areas;

(b) if so, the progress made in the work;

(c) whether Government have received protests from some opposition parties in the matter; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop the construction preparatory work?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) No construction activity is going on at the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya. However, from various sources, reports have been received that cutting and carving of stone pillars are going on at places away from the disputed site at Ayodhya and at some villages in Rajasthan. Carving of stones away from the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya does not constitute violation of any law. Some of the political parties have also protested in the matter. Central Government as a statutory receiver is duty bound to maintain status-quo in the disputed area as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 24.10.94. The site is under the protection of the Central Government and it would be protected fully.

Economic Package for North-Eastern States

2357. SHRI PRAKANTA WARSIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken by Government for implementation of economic package for North-Eastern States, particularly in Assam, as announced by earlier Government;

(b) whether Government propose any modification in the economic package for the State of Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) A majority of the projects/schemes